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# OREGON WILDLIFE PLANNING COORDINATION PROJECT

October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999

Annual Report 1999



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**OREGON WILDLIFE PLANNING  
COORDINATION PROJECT**

**Annual Report  
October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999**

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Project No. 97-059-03  
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October 5, 1999

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## ABSTRACT

The intent of the *Oregon Wildlife Planning Coordination* project is to fund Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff to facilitate wildlife mitigation coordination and planning between Oregon wildlife managers. The primary goal of ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff is to foster, facilitate, and manage a statewide cooperative wildlife mitigation planning and implementation effort between the Oregon wildlife managers (the Oregon Wildlife Coalition or OWC) to mitigate for wildlife losses in Oregon caused by the development and operation of the hydropower system. The four main project objectives are to:

1. Provide coordination for the Oregon wildlife managers meetings and other activities.
2. Plan and prioritize current and future Oregon wildlife mitigation projects using the BPA Gap Analysis project, StreamNet, various federal, tribal, and state biological conservation plans, and other scientifically credible techniques and plans.
3. Participate in public and private meetings associated with the operations of the Oregon wildlife manager's coordination project.
4. Provide coordination of and oversight for ODFW wildlife mitigation projects.

Much has been accomplished by ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff during the project period. The three primary methods and sources of materials used to achieve project objectives were 1) continuation of the OWC's actions initiated during the previous project period, 2) use of other past wildlife mitigation planning and implementation accomplishments and decisions, and 3) initiation of new OWC activities.

Significant results of the project include:

- Allocation of 4 million dollars to the OWC in FY 1999
- Preparation and submittal of the OWC's FY 2000 project proposals
- Successful evaluation and ranking of the OWC's FY 2000 project proposals
- Preparation of CBFWA's FY 2000 Annual Implementation Work Plan/Budget
- Allocation of about 4.5 million dollars to the OWC in FY 2000
- Signing of the OWC's Memorandum of Agreement
- Facilitation of 13 meetings of the OWC
- Participation in 12 CBFWA Wildlife Caucus meetings
- Participation in several Wildlife Caucus workgroups
- Development of statewide and regional mitigation strategies
- Facilitation of resolution of wildlife mitigation crediting issues.
- Participation in numerous public and private meetings to discuss issues pertinent to Oregon's wildlife mitigation activities
- Preparation of Draft ODFW/BPA Columbia Basin MOA
- Compilation of data on existing and future wildlife mitigation sites

- Assistance in resolving Burlington Bottoms issues (SOW/budget, 5-year habitat management plan, future project site ownership proposal)
- Prioritization of OWC projects and allocation of available OWC funds
- Facilitation of funding strategies to implement the Pine Creek Ranch project
- Initiation of NEPA checklist and other BPA requirements for the Ladd Marsh project
- Facilitation of landowner negotiations and other implementation strategies for the Horn Butte project
- Coordination and communication with OWC, BPA, NPPC, and others
- Improved coordination and communication with ODFW Division, Region, and District staff, including Willamette Basin Project staff
- Investigation of potential mitigation sites
- Initiation of formal strategy for the pursuit of an Oregon wildlife trust agreement

The three primary methods and sources of materials for achieving project objectives were continuation of the OWC's actions initiated during the previous project period, use of other past wildlife mitigation planning and implementation accomplishments and decisions, and initiation of new OWC activities. The basis of successfully using these methods was the facilitation and coordination of mitigation efforts at the state and regional levels.

Continued funding of ODFW staff dedicated to overseeing Oregon's wildlife mitigation efforts is necessary to ensure that BPA-funded mitigation projects are implemented by Oregon wildlife managers in the near future. ODFW planning/coordination staff will accomplish this by continuing to nurture a cohesive Oregon Wildlife Coalition and by ensuring that the group's shared vision for wildlife mitigation, as documented in the signed MOA. Dedicated ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff will also see that currently proposed and approved mitigation projects are implemented. ODFW planning/coordination staff will help facilitate discussions between BPA and Oregon wildlife managers regarding project implementation and short-term and long-term funding strategies. Continuation of this project will help ensure that 1) Oregon's wildlife managers mitigate for Oregon's wildlife losses in a coordinated manner, 2) both short-term and long-term funding of wildlife mitigation activities is secured, 3) Oregon's mitigation concerns and priorities are acknowledged at the regional level, and 4) ODFW staff continue to be involved in BPA wildlife mitigation activities within Oregon. The result of these efforts will be that BPA's wildlife debt at Oregon hydrofacilities will be offset in a cost effective and efficient manner, and that implemented projects will benefit Oregon's wildlife resources.

## INTRODUCTION

The *Oregon Wildlife Planning Coordination* project (Project No. 97-59-3-ODFW) is ongoing since September 30, 1997. The intent of the project is to fund Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff to facilitate coordination and planning between Oregon wildlife managers. For the purposes of the project, Oregon Wildlife managers are the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), the Burns Paiute Tribe (BPT), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The primary goal of the ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff is to foster, facilitate, and manage a statewide cooperative wildlife mitigation planning and implementation effort between the Oregon wildlife managers (the Oregon Wildlife Coalition or OWC) to mitigate for wildlife losses in Oregon caused by the development and operation of the Columbia Basin hydropower system. The four main project objectives are:

1. Provide coordination for the Oregon wildlife managers meetings and other activities.
2. Plan and prioritize current and future Oregon wildlife mitigation projects using the BPA Gap Analysis project, StreamNet, various federal, tribal, and state biological conservation plans, and other scientifically credible techniques and plans.
3. Participate in public and private meetings associated with the operations of the Oregon wildlife manager's coordination project.
4. Provide coordination of and oversight for ODFW wildlife mitigation projects.

ODFW has been participating in the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA's) Wildlife Mitigation Program since the mid-1980's. Since 1991, Oregon's wildlife managers have been working together to coordinate the planning, selection, and implementation of BPA-funded wildlife mitigation projects under the Northwest Power Planning Council's (NPPC's) Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program as outlined in Sections 7 and 11, specifically measures 7.6, 11.2D, 11.3E, and 11.3F.

The OWC, working within the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority's (CBFWA's) Wildlife Caucus, has developed a programmatic project proposal, *Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites in Oregon*, for BPA to fund Oregon wildlife mitigation efforts. The project is based on the results of two related planning efforts – the *Oregon Trust Agreement Planning (OTAP)* project (BPA 1992) and the *Draft Assessing the OTAP Project Using Gap Analysis* project (ODFW 1997).

The *Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites in Oregon* project has two components: a planning/coordination component and a mitigation implementation component. The purpose of the planning/coordination component is to fund wildlife planning/coordination

staff for each member of the OWC. The goal of these staff is to continue to develop and implement an Oregon wildlife mitigation strategy for the selection, scientific analysis, implementation, operation and maintenance (O&M), and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of wildlife mitigation projects within Oregon. A major part of this effort is having these planning/coordination staff use the results of the Gap Analysis project, along with other federal, state and tribal mitigation plans, to continue developing projects which Oregon wildlife managers can support and agree upon, such that they can be brought forth to the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus and NPPC for approval, leading to funding by BPA. The purpose of the mitigation implementation component of the project is to continue to develop and eventually implement those wildlife mitigation projects that have been approved by the NPPC for BPA funding, and to develop and implement new projects to mitigate for Oregon's wildlife losses.

The *Oregon Wildlife Planning Coordination* project provides funds for dedicated ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff, thus fulfilling ODFW's portion of the planning/coordination component of the OWC's *Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites in Oregon* project proposal.

This report outlines activities during the project's second year of implementation, the October 1, 1998 – September 30, 1999 period. The report describes the project area, specific objectives and associated tasks of the project, and methods and materials used to accomplish these objectives. Project results are summarized by objective and task. Project expenditures and data collected on potential wildlife mitigation sites are summarized in the attached appendices.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA**

The project area encompasses the Oregon portion of the Columbia River Basin, including portions of the Lower Snake River, Owyhee River, Malheur River, Burnt River, Powder River, Imnaha River, Grande Ronde River, Umatilla River, John Day River, Deschutes River, 15 Mile Creek, Hood River, Sandy River, Willamette River (and all its tributaries), as well as the mainstem Columbia River from McNary Dam to the mouth.

There are 12 federally licensed hydroelectric dams and facilities within the project area. Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, and McNary dams are located on the mainstem Columbia River. Big Cliff, Detroit, Green Peter, Foster, Cougar, Dexter, Lookout Point, and Hills Creek dams are located on the Willamette River's tributaries. Construction and operation of these 12 hydrofacilities has past, present, and future impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Habitat types, land uses, and land development trends vary within the project area. Habitat types range from agriculture to old growth forest on the west side of the Cascade Mountains. East-side habitats are dominated by shrub-steppe, agriculture, and forest. Human population growth continues to threaten remaining wildlife habitat throughout the Columbia River Basin.



Within the project area there are numerous federal, state, tribal, and private landowners.

## **METHODS AND MATERIALS**

The three primary methods and sources of materials used to achieve project objectives include:

1. Continuation of the OWC's actions initiated during the previous project period (e.g., the *FY 1999 Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites in Oregon* project, the Draft Memorandum of Agreement [MOA]).
2. Use of other past wildlife mitigation planning and implementation accomplishments and decisions (e.g., the Northwest Power Act, the NPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program, BPA's wildlife loss assessments, the Washington Interim Agreement, the Draft Wildlife Plan, the OTAP project, the results of the Gap Analysis project, the Independent Scientific Review Panel's [ISRP's] review of the NPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program, Watershed and Wildlife evaluation and ranking criteria, Habitat Evaluation Procedures [HEP], the NPPC's FY 1999 funding recommendations).
3. Initiation of new OWC activities (e.g., FY 2000 project proposals).

The basis of successfully using each of the above methods was the facilitation of communication and coordination of mitigation efforts at both the state and regional levels. For example, many meetings were conducted with CBFWA Wildlife Caucus members, OWC members, NPPC staff, ODFW staff, and others to promote and advance Oregon's wildlife mitigation efforts.

## **RESULTS**

A significant result of the year's activities was the preparation and submission of the OWC's *FY 2000 Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites in Oregon* programmatic project proposal and individual project proposals under the programmatic project. Other important accomplishments include the allocation of the OWC's available mitigation funds, the successful evaluation and ranking of OWC FY 2000 project proposals by the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus, the signing of the OWC's MOA, development of regional wildlife mitigation crediting guidelines, movement towards implementation of several currently proposed projects (e.g., Pine Creek Ranch, Ladd Marsh, Horn Butte), and improved coordination and communication with ODFW Division, Region, and District staff.

The following objectives and associated tasks describe how ODFW planning/coordination staff facilitated and managed the OWC's statewide cooperative wildlife mitigation planning and implementation efforts during the project period.

**Objective 1: Provide coordination for the Oregon wildlife managers meetings and other activities.**

Task 1.1: Act as facilitator in planning and coordinating monthly managers meetings throughout the state.

- Planned, coordinated, and facilitated 13 meetings of the OWC to discuss project planning and funding issues, develop and select FY 2000 project proposals, prepare for the review and ranking of the FY 2000 project proposals, give updates of the FY 1999 OWC projects and discuss project implementation strategies, facilitate the completion of the OWC MOA, discuss short-term and long-term funding strategies, discuss and develop alternative solutions to resolving the CBFWA's FY 2000 wildlife work plan and budget, and discuss the pursuit of a wildlife trust agreement with BPA.

November 3, 1998 (Portland)  
December 17, 1998 (conference call)  
January 8, 1999 (Portland)  
January 21, 1999 (Conference call)  
February 3, 1999 (Warm Springs)  
February 24, 1999 (Boise)  
March 11, 1999 (Portland)  
March 24, 1999 (Spokane)  
April 27-28, 1999 (Portland)  
May 20, 1999 (conference call)  
July 14, 1999 (Portland)  
August 17, 1999 (Portland)  
September 17, 1999 (conference call)

- Prepared and disseminated meeting minutes, agendas, and other pertinent meeting materials to the OWC.

Task 1.2: Coordinate joint property database compilation and maintenance, GIS analysis, procedures for standardization of HEP, M&E, and public outreach and involvement.

- Assembled data, general information, and other background materials for on-going and future mitigation projects throughout the Columbia Basin in Oregon. Worked with OWC members, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Metro, and others

- Facilitated the discussion, review, final revision, and signing of the OWC's MOA which provides a framework for developing jointly sponsored mitigation projects, and coordinated mitigation activities including: standardization of HEP, M&E, and project planning and implementation.
- Coordinated with OWC, ODFW, USFWS, TNC, and Metro staff to prepare the FY 2000 wildlife mitigation project proposals.
- Obtained historical information from BPA on Columbia basin-wide BPA wildlife mitigation expenditures and habitat acres acquired/enhanced. This information, as well as other existing data, was compiled and Power Point graphics were developed for use by the OWC.
- Prepared a paper summarizing the history of BPA's wildlife mitigation activities, existing mitigation settlements, and Oregon's accomplishments to aid in public education, outreach, and involvement.
- Assigned work to and oversaw work of a temporary employee assisting in the compilation of potential mitigation sites information needed for the review and ranking of FY 2000 project proposals, and creation of a project database.

Task 1.3: Arrange seasonal field visits to various projects and properties within the Columbia Basin.

May 27, 1999 – Ladd Marsh WMA Additions project (ODFW, BPA)

June 10, 1999 – Horn Butte project (ODFW, BPA, TNC)

Task 1.4: Coordinate and facilitate the development of guidelines for project selection and implementation.

- Facilitated the discussion, review, revision, and signing of the OWC's MOA which provides guidelines for mitigation planning, selection, and implementation including the development of short-term and long-term funding agreements with BPA.
- Participated in discussions on the processes for selecting and implementing the OWC's project proposals.
- Prepared a letter from the OWC to BPA summarizing OWC project priorities and fund allocation decisions.
- Participated in the development of the OWC's strategies for balancing the FY 2000 wildlife budget while meeting OWC mitigation objectives.

- Wrote and sent a letter from the OWC to BPA regarding the OWC's concerns about the possible effects of the unresolved crediting issues on OWC projects and the OWC's recommendations for addressing the crediting issues while proceeding with project implementation.
- Reviewed and commented on the CTWSRO's draft MOA with BPA for acquisition of the Pine Creek Ranch project.
- Prepared the ODFW/BPA draft Columbia Basin MOA and submitted to the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ) and BPA for review.
- Participated in efforts to facilitate the CTWSRO's purchase of the Pine Creek Ranch, including writing a letter for the OWC outlining commitment to the project a funding strategy.

**Objective 2: Plan and prioritize current and future Oregon wildlife mitigation projects using the BPA GAP database, StreamNet, various federal, tribal, and state biological conservation plans, and other scientifically credible techniques and plans.**

Task 2.1: Apply current and alternative futures analyses using GAP techniques to determine the biological role of the current project proposals.

- Collected information on the OWC's FY 1999 and FY 2000 project proposals. For example, obtained new information for land acquisition of private land of interest adjacent to ODFW's Irrigon Wildlife Area and new information on the cost of an easement at the South Fork Crooked River project site.
- Conducted analyses of proposed projects' role in regional and statewide conservation planning and mitigation efforts.
- Facilitated the OWC's prioritization and allocation of available funds.
- Worked with BPA to determine how much money is currently available to OWC projects and to track the history of fund allocation. Summarized findings in a memo.
- Coordinated activities with ODFW Division, Regional, and District staff; OWC members; Bureau of Land Management (BLM), private landowners; TNC; Trust for Public Lands (TPL); Clearwater Land Exchange, The River Network, and other entities.

Task 2.2: Apply Task 2.1 to new projects and determine their “complimentarity” to on-going and current projects.

- Identified new wildlife mitigation project opportunities:

Additional lands adjacent to ODFW’s Ladd Marsh and Wenaha Wildlife Areas  
Additional lands in the Horn Butte area  
Parcel of land in the Salem area  
Private in-holding at ODFW’s White River Wildlife Area  
Lone Star Co. property near Scappoose, Oregon

- Collected and maintained information pertaining to new wildlife mitigation project opportunities. Communicated with ODFW Realty staff, ODFW Region and District staff, NPPC, TNC, TPL, BLM, Oregon Department of Corrections personnel, and others.
- Met with ODFW Region and District staff to identify potential future wildlife mitigation projects based on the results of the Draft Gap Analysis project and personal knowledge of regional wildlife resource needs and opportunities.
- Conducted preliminary analyses of potential projects to determine feasibility and complimentarity to current projects.
- Discussed the values and conditions for incorporation of new mitigation projects with past mitigation activities with OWC members.
- Selected mitigation projects to be submitted in FY 2000 project proposal process.
- Prepared a FY 2000 project proposal for the Horn Butte, South Fork Crooked River, Irrigon WMA Additions, Wenaha WMA Additions, and Ladd Marsh WMA Additions projects.
- Assisted in the preparation of other Oregon wildlife mitigation FY 2000 proposals including Acquisition of Oxbow Ranch – Middle Fork John Day, Burlington Bottoms, and Multnomah Channel.
- Prepared the OWC’s *FY 2000 Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites in Oregon* programmatic project proposal.
- Collected additional information for the OWC’s FY 2000 project proposals and prepared written responses to the ranking criteria for the Horn Butte, South Fork Crooked River, Irrigon WMA Additions, Wenaha WMA Additions, and Ladd Marsh WMA Additions projects.
- Helped collect information and visual aids to prepare for the review of the Multnomah Channel and Burlington Bottoms project proposals by the Wildlife

Caucus. Prepared the Burlington Bottoms project summary for CBFWA Wildlife Caucus review.

- Responded to the ISRP's FY 2000 funding recommendations and individual project proposal comments. Coordinated with CBFWA and OWC members.
- Oversaw the work of temporary employee who assisted in the collection and maintenance of information on FY 2000 and other potential wildlife mitigation sites, and in the preparation of the responses to the wildlife criteria.

Task 2.3: Continue to apply new methods of selection and implementation for current and future projects as they become available.

- Helped negotiate for funding flexibility for OWC projects within the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus. (i.e., the flexibility to use FY 1999 and FY 2000 budget allocations for any OWC approved project).
- Participated in discussions about the Multi-Species Framework to learn more about the methodology and how it may affect wildlife mitigation project development and implementation.

**Objective 3: Participate in public and private meetings associated with the operations of the Oregon wildlife managers' coordination project.**

Task 3.1: Attend meetings listed in Objective 3, occasionally acting as facilitator.

- Planned and participated in meetings with NPPC, BPA, CBFWA, ODFW, TNC, BLM, and ODOJ staff to discuss issues related to the OWC's coordination project, other Oregon wildlife mitigation projects and efforts, specific issues associated with on-going OWC projects, and BPA's wildlife mitigation program in general.

October 20, 1998 – staff planning – roles/responsibilities, project status (ODFW)

October 29, 1998 – status of ODFW contracts (ODFW, BPA, NPPC)

November 23, 1998 – Burlington Bottoms management (ODFW)

November 23, 1998 – coordination/project status (ODFW, TNC)

December 7, 1998 – Willamette Basin MOA (ODFW, BPA, ODOJ)

December 11, 1998 – project implementation (ODFW, CTUIR, NPPC)

December 16, 1998 – project implementation (OWC, BPA)

December 17, 1998 – Willamette Basin MOA (ODFW, BPA, ODOJ)

December 17, 1998 – Multi Species Framework (ODFW, Ecological Work Team member)

December 18, 1998 – Horn Butte project planning (ODFW, BLM)

January 14, 1999 – staff planning, roles/responsibilities, project status (ODFW)

January 15, 1999 - project implementation and funding strategies (OWC, NPPC)

January 21, 1999 – Willamette Basin MOA (ODFW, BPA, ODOJ)

January 27, 1999 – project priorities and fund allocation (ODFW, BPA, NPPC)

March 12, 1999 – ODFW personnel issues (ODFW)

March 16, 1999 – Burlington Bottoms Commission agenda item (ODFW, BPA)  
 March 17, 1999 – Tribal/State issues (ODFW)  
 April 5, 1999 – internal work plan review (ODFW)  
 April 6, 1999 – staff planning, roles/responsibilities, project status (ODFW)  
 April 13, 1999 – ODFW personnel issues (ODFW)  
 April 20, 1999 – Willamette Basin MOA (ODFW, BPA, ODOJ)  
 April 20, 1999 – Multi-Species Framework process/crediting issues (ODFW, Beak)  
 May 13, 1999 – Willamette Basin MOA (ODFW, BPA, ODOJ)  
 May 21, 1999 – OWC project implementation (ODFW, TNC)  
 May 25, 1999 – staff planning, roles/responsibilities, project status (ODFW)  
 May 27, 1999 – Ladd Marsh project implementation (ODFW, BPA)  
 June 1, 1999 – outreach to ODFW High Desert Region (ODFW)  
 June 2, 1999 – CBFWA Members Steering Group (CBFWA)  
 June 10, 1999 – Horn Butte project implementation (ODFW, BPA, TNC)  
 August 4, 1999 – CBFWA Members Steering Group (CBFWA)  
 August 5, 1999 – outreach to ODFW NW Region-No. Willamette Watershed District (ODFW)  
 August 11, 1999 – Willamette SOW/Budget (ODFW, BPA)  
 August 31, 1999 – CBFWA Members (CBFWA, NPPC)  
 September 9, 1999 – outreach to ODFW Northeast Region (ODFW)

- Participated in 12 CBFWA Wildlife Caucus meetings.

October 22, 1998 (Yakima)  
 December 15-16, 1998 (Spokane)  
 January 19, 1999 (conference call)  
 January 27-28, 1999 (Portland)  
 February 23-26, 1999 (Boise)  
 March 11, 1999 (Portland)  
 March 24-25, 1999 (Spokane)  
 April 28, 1999 (Portland)  
 June 23-24, 1999 (Boise)  
 July 28-29, 1999 (Burns)  
 August 16, 1999 (Spokane)  
 September 30, 1999 (Pocatello)

Task 3.2: Act as ODFW representative in the meetings described in Objective 3.

- Represented ODFW at the meetings described in Task 3.1.

Task 3.3: Perform the duties of the liaison between the Oregon wildlife managers and the organizations listed in Objective 3.

- Relayed information to Oregon wildlife managers and other entities via telephone, memos, e-mail, etc. pertaining to on-going projects, OWC budget allocations, the FY 2000 project evaluation and prioritization process, FY 2000 budget issues, potential mitigation sites, the OWC MOA, CBFWA work group activities, and other BPA wildlife mitigation issues.

Task 3.4: Actively participate in workgroups and other processes which are important to the Oregon wildlife managers and Oregon mitigation planning, in general.

- Participated in the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus' Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) workgroup. Reviewed and edited draft M&E Statement of Work (SOW). Helped write a letter to contractor outlining anticipated tasks and desired products. Helped prepare *Monitoring and Evaluation in the Wildlife Program: Report to the Independent Scientific Review Panel* (August 1999). Coordinated with ODFW Burlington Bottoms project staff and TNC Willow Creek project staff obtain information needed for the report, wrote portions of the report, and reviewed and edited the entire report. Attended two work group meetings.

November 10, 1999 (Portland)

February 23, 1999 (Boise)

- Participated in the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus' Operational Losses workgroup. Discussed general issues with workgroup members. Prepared a draft issue paper on resolution of the operational losses issues for review by the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus.
- Participated in the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus' Crediting workgroup. Prepared a crediting issue paper for workgroup review. Contributed to the draft crediting issue paper that describes the crediting issues and the Wildlife Caucus' recommendations for their resolution. Attended three workgroup meeting.

December 3, 1998 (Portland)

May 12, 1999 (Portland)

June 2, 1999 (Portland)

- Helped prepare CBFWA's FY 2000 Draft Annual Implementation Work Plan (AIWP). Wrote wildlife sections for each Oregon subbasin summary. Helped prepare the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus' final budget for the AIWP. Reviewed a draft budget table for accuracy, identified and resolved errors, and worked with CBFWA and ODFW staff to edit the table for inclusion into the AIWP. Note: A portion of time spent on this task was (or will be) billed to a separate account dedicated to AIWP development.
- Participated in the CBWA-sponsored *How to Improve Your FY 2000 Project Proposal* workshop (November 2, 1998 in Portland)
- Completed Microsoft Power Point training (December 22, 1998 in Portland).
- Attended part of ODFW's Annual Biologist meeting (January 20, 1999 in Clackamas).



- Attended The Cispus Workshop: Training in Resource Management Communication Skills (March 1-5, 1999 in Randle, Washington).
- Attended a Multi-species Framework Research, Monitoring & Evaluation meeting (May 20, 1999 in Portland).
- Participated in a meeting with ODFW and NPPC staff on June 3, 1999 on Portland to discuss the relationship between federal and non-federal wildlife mitigation obligations and processes, the applicability and authority of the NPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program to non-federal dams and the FERC re-licensing process, and actions that ODFW can take to help FERC's mitigation efforts for non-federal dams be more consistent with mitigation that is occurring for federal dams.
- Assisted the Yakama Nation complete HEP surveys on BPA wildlife mitigation project lands (August 19, 1999 in Toppenish, Washington).
- Developed a template describing CBFWA Wildlife Caucus' participants' addresses, roles, and responsibilities. This was submitted to CBFWA for distribution.

**Objective 4: Provide coordination of and oversight for ODFW wildlife mitigation projects.**

Task 4.1: Coordinate mitigation projects within and between Division, Regions, Districts, and programs.

- Worked directly and communicated frequently with ODFW Division, Region, and District staff to gather information on the FY 1999 and FY 2000 mitigation projects, relay information, and coordinate efforts between Oregon wildlife managers. These efforts help other ODFW wildlife staff be more involved in and informed of BPA wildlife mitigation processes, activities, accomplishments, and opportunities.
- Arranged and participated in three meetings with ODFW Region and District staff to discuss the BPA wildlife mitigation program, mitigation process, Oregon's mitigation activities, current and future needs and opportunities, and potential mitigation projects.

June 1, 1999 – High Desert Region (Bend)

August 5, 1999 – Northwest Region: North Willamette Watershed District (Clackamas)

September 9, 1999 – Northeast Region (La Grande)

- Developed a table summarizing the titles and duties of those ODFW staff who are involved in the BPA wildlife mitigation. The table was distributed to ODFW staff to clarify participants' roles and responsibilities.

- Worked on implementation of the Horn Butte project. Met with ODFW, BPA, and TNC staff in Arlington on June 10, 1999 to discuss project implementation issues, BPA processes, NEPA compliance, and the landowner negotiation status and process. Implementation strategies were developed and the project site was toured.
- Worked on implementation of the Ladd Marsh WMA Additions project. Worked with TNC and BPA to coordinate appraisal review and approval. Also, ODFW and BPA staff met on the project site on May 27, 1999 to discuss project implementation issues, BPA processes, and NEPA compliance. ODFW and BPA staff toured the Wallender, Simonis, and Conley Lake properties. A letter was drafted and sent to BPA regarding the cost-sharing component of the Wallender property acquisition. Worked with BPA to begin completing the NEPA checklist for the Wallender property.
- Distributed the OWC's signed MOA to OWC members, ODFW, NPPC, BPA, and others.
- Coordinated tasks with ODFW staff and other entities to meet project information needs and time lines, particularly in preparation for the review and ranking of Oregon's FY 2000 project proposals. This involved arranging for field staff to travel to Boise for the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus' project review and to assist in the project presentations.
- Coordinated with ODFW fish staff on various CBFWA tasks including preparation of ODFW's Coordination budget proposal for CBFWA and the preparation of the AIWP.
- Reviewed reports, memos, Statements of Work, and budgets for on-going BPA wildlife mitigation projects.
- Participated in ODFW's Hydro-Coordinator's Retreat (November 19, 1998 in Warm Springs). Prepared and presented an overview of BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program including an update on FY 1999 projects and a description of FY 2000 processes. Discussed opportunities to coordinate mitigation projects between the BPA Wildlife Mitigation Program and the ODFW Habitat Division's mitigation program.
- Prepared and presented information on BPA wildlife mitigation and the FY 2000 proposal process to ODFW Regional staff at the October 21, 1998 ODFW Wildlife Management Team meeting.
- Worked with ODFW fish and wildlife staff to prepare FY 2000 ODFW subbasin umbrella proposals. Participated in meetings (October 7, 1998 and November 4, 1998) to discuss and develop umbrella scope and outline. Participated in a Mainstem subbasin meeting (October 13, 1998). Planned and facilitated a Willamette subbasin meeting (October 26, 1998). Prepared wildlife sections for the ODFW subbasin umbrellas (i.e., Mainstem, Willamette River, Deschutes River, Hood River/Fifteen

Mile Creek, John Day River, Umatilla River, Grande Ronde River, and Imnaha River).

- Prepared FY 2000 Oregon wildlife mitigation project proposal summaries for review by ODFW's Wildlife Management Team and Fish Management Team.
- Prepared and presented information on the FY 2000 proposal process and ODFW's subbasin umbrella approach to a joint ODFW Wildlife Management Team and Fish Management Team meeting (November 19, 1998).
- Coordinated with Willamette Basin Mitigation Project staff. Met regularly, communicated about program issues and processes, communicated about OWC issues, and reviewed and commented on memos and reports prepared by Willamette Basin Project staff.
- Met with BPA, ODOJ, and ODFW staff to discuss the Willamette Basin Draft MOA and other project management issues and guidelines. Arranged a meeting with ODFW Division, Region, and District staff to discuss the MOA.
- Coordinated with Burlington Bottoms project staff to help facilitate the completion of Burlington Bottoms tasks and resolution of certain issues. This involved: 1) coordinating with ODFW staff in preparation for the review of the project by the Wildlife Caucus in Boise; 2) investigating the requirements and process for presenting ODFW's intent to take ownership of the Burlington Bottoms mitigation site to the ODFW Commission; 3) reviewing and editing the summary document that was distributed to the ODFW Commission; 4) review of existing plans, Statements of Work, and budgets; 5) reviewing and commenting on the FY 1999 SOW/Budget; 6) drafting a project approval form and facilitating its signing by ODFW Wildlife and Realty staff; 7) reviewing and commenting on the draft 5-year habitat management plan; 8) assisting in the resolution of the tracking and crediting of Burlington Bottoms habitat units, and 9) planning and participating in meetings to discuss SOW and habitat management plan development:

February 4, 1999 – SOW/Budget and Habitat Management plan development (ODFW, BPA)

February 4, 1999 - SOW/Budget and Habitat Management plan development (ODFW, BPA)

March 26, 1999 – SOW/budget development (ODFW)

- Informed several ODFW field staff of a HEP training opportunity and assisted in their enrollment.
- Participated in ODFW's Habitat Meeting (March 30-31, 1999 in Bend). Prepared and presented an overview of BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program including the history of BPA wildlife mitigation efforts and process, Oregon's accomplishments, status of Oregon's FY 1999 projects, and Oregon's potential FY 2000 projects.

Task 4.2: Ensure consistency and compliance with federal, state, tribal, and especially ODFW mandates, policies, and procedures.

- Reviewed ODFW's mandates, policies, and procedures (e.g., ODFW Realty Division's land acquisition procedures).
- Considered the implications of federal, state, and tribal mandates and policies on wildlife mitigation projects as necessary during project development and implementation efforts.
- Responded to an ODFW information inquiry regarding a land transaction by the CTUIR.
- Investigated the status of Ladd Marsh project appraisals and BPA's appraisal review and approval process.
- Sent the Wallender property (FY 1999 Ladd Marsh WMA additions project) appraisal and Simonis property (FY 2000 Ladd Marsh WMA Additions project) appraisal to BPA for review and approval.
- Coordinated with ODFW Realty Division and Wildlife Division, Region, and District staff to complete the Burlington Bottoms Project Approval form.

Task 4.3: Determine feasibility of projects.

- Collected information on Oregon's FY 1999 and FY 2000 Oregon project proposals that will be used to determine project feasibility.
- Participated in project feasibility discussions and decision-making sessions with the OWC. Considered current information on project scope and cost (and any changes in), progress of landowner negotiations, and relationship to other potential projects (i.e., prioritization).
- Participated in the selection of the OWC's priority projects.
- Planned and facilitated a meeting with ODFW and BLM staff to discuss the feasibility of the proposed Horn Butte mitigation project (December 18, 1998).
- Worked with ODFW fish staff to discuss project implementation issues. For example, discussed the feasibility of Anadromous Fish Caucus funds being used to help implement the OWC's Trout Creek Canyon project.
- Collected information on potential mitigation sites and determined feasibility based on existing habitat conditions and wildlife values, enhancement opportunities, and mitigation cost effectiveness.

Task 4.4:        Develop and manage budgets.

- Tracked the *Oregon Wildlife Planning Coordination* project budget by reviewing monthly expense reports, verifying expenditures, and correcting expenditures when necessary.
- Reviewed budgets and expenditures of on-going BPA wildlife mitigation projects when necessary.
- Prepared and submitted expense forms for program related expenditures.

Task 4.5:        Prepare progress reports (*this is a new task*)

- Prepared ODFW weekly activity reports for Wildlife Division staff.
- Distributed copies of the September 30, 1997 – September 30, 1998 Annual Report to CBFWA Wildlife Caucus members, NPPC staff, and ODFW staff.
- Prepared a progress report for the October 1, 1998 – December 31, 1998 period and submitted it to BPA.
- Prepared a progress report for the January 1, 1999 - March 31, 1999 period and submitted it to BPA.
- Prepared a progress report for the April 1, 1999 – July 31, 1999 period and submitted it to BPA.
- Prepared the Statement of Work and Budget for the period October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000 and submitted it to BPA.
- Prepared the Annual Report for the October 1, 1998 – September 30, 1999 period and submitted it to BPA.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Much has been accomplished by ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff during the October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999 project period. Work activities were focused on three main areas: activities of the Oregon wildlife managers, regional wildlife mitigation activities, and ODFW internal wildlife mitigation activities.

ODFW planning/coordination staff arranged and facilitated numerous meetings of the Oregon wildlife managers. Much mitigation planning and strategizing occurred during these meetings. As a result, Oregon's wildlife managers are more unified as

demonstrated by a signed MOA and submission of the programmatic FY 2000 project proposal, *Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites in Oregon*. Information on potential wildlife mitigation sites was collected and compiled. ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff helped OWC members allocate the approximate four million dollars of available funds to priority projects and to coordinate with BPA, NPPC, TNC, and others to move project towards implementation. As a result, appraisals were completed, NEPA surveys were conducted, landowner negotiations occurred, and MOA's were initiated. Progress was also made towards securing additional funds – the OWC's FY 2000 project proposal requests ranked high; the NPPC recommended to BPA that the OWC receive about 4.5 million dollars in FY 2000 for on-going and new projects.

ODFW planning/coordination staff also participated in various regional wildlife mitigation related processes. Input was provided on mitigation planning documents including CBFWA's *Monitoring and Evaluation on the Wildlife Program*. Staff led the preparation of the wildlife components of ODFW's FY 2000 Umbrella Subbasin project proposals, as well as CBFWA's *FY 2000 Annual Implementation Work Plan and Budget*. ODFW also led CBFWA's effort to resolve wildlife mitigation crediting issues and operational losses issues.

Much effort was made to improve coordination and communication with ODFW Division, Region, and District staff. As a result, ODFW staff are becoming more aware of and involved in BPA wildlife mitigation activities. This is key to the success of the BPA wildlife mitigation program in Oregon. ODFW staff are gaining ownership and interest in existing BPA-funded projects and proposed projects, and are recognizing future needs and opportunities.

Continued funding of ODFW staff dedicated to overseeing Oregon's wildlife mitigation efforts is necessary to ensure that BPA-funded mitigation projects are implemented by Oregon wildlife managers in the near future. ODFW planning/coordination staff will accomplish this by continuing to nurture a cohesive Oregon Wildlife Coalition and by ensuring that the group's shared vision for wildlife mitigation, as documented in the signed MOA, is carried out. Dedicated ODFW wildlife mitigation planning/coordination staff will also see that currently proposed and approved mitigation projects are implemented. ODFW planning/coordination staff will help facilitate discussions between BPA and the Oregon wildlife managers regarding project implementation and short-term and long-term funding strategies. Continuation of this project will help ensure that: 1) Oregon's wildlife managers mitigate for Oregon's wildlife losses in a coordinated manner, 2) both short-term and long-term funding of wildlife mitigation activities is secured, 3) Oregon's mitigation concerns and priorities are acknowledged at the regional level, and 4) ODFW staff continue to be involved in BPA wildlife mitigation activities within Oregon. The result of these efforts will be that BPA's wildlife debt at Oregon hydrofacilities will be offset in a cost effective and efficient manner, and that implemented projects will benefit Oregon's wildlife resources.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Summary of Project Expenditures**

## **Project Expenditures (as of July 31, 1999)**

Note: Appendix A of the annual report for September 30, 1997 – September 30, 1998 listed project expenditures accrued through July 31, 1998. Project expenditures after July 31, 1998 were not available at the time the annual was prepared and submitted to BPA. This Appendix A lists expenditures for August 1, 1998 – September 30, 1998 and then for October 1, 1998 – July 31, 1999. Expenditures from August 1, 1999 – September 30, 1999 will be included in the next annual report.

**Period: August 1, 1998 – September 30, 1998**

<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
<u>Personnel Services</u>	
Regular Employee (payroll & other payroll expenditures)	\$5,517.72
Temporary Services	\$533.60
Personnel Service Total	\$6,051.32
<u>Supplies and Services</u>	
Instate Travel (lodging, meals, ground trans., misc.)	\$70.05
Out-of-State Travel	0
Miscellaneous (film and processing, printing, photocopies project supplies, telecommunications, training)	0
Computer Software	0
Computer Hardware	\$613.00
Supplies and Services Total	\$683.05
Grand Total (for August 1, 1998 – September 30, 1998)	\$6,734.37



**Period: October 1, 1998 – July 31, 1999**

<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
<u>Personnel Services</u>	
Regular Employee (payroll & other payroll expenditures)	\$47,218.98
Temporary Services	\$3,560.95
Personnel Service Total	\$50,779.93
 <u>Supplies and Services</u>	
Instate Travel (lodging, meals, ground trans., misc.)	\$1,072.66
Out-of-State Travel	\$2,556.77
Miscellaneous (film and processing, printing, photocopies project supplies, telecommunications, training)	\$885.52
Computer Software	\$70.90
Computer Hardware	0
Supplies and Services Total	\$4,585.85
 Grand Total (for October 1, 1998 – July 31, 1999)	 \$55,365.78

**Period: August 1, 1998 – September 30, 1998**

**Itemized List of Non-Expendable Property (>\$3000)/Designated Sensitive Items**

Item	Date of Purchase	Purchase Cost
Computer hardware (Kangaroo Drive)	6/30/98	\$613.00
Total		\$613.00

**Period: October 1, 1998 – July 31, 1999**

**Itemized List of Non-Expendable Property (>\$3000)/Designated Sensitive Items**

Item	Date of Purchase	Purchase Cost
Computer software (Norton Systemworks)	5/5/99	\$70.90
Total		\$70.90

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Summary of Data Collected for FY 2000 Project Proposals**

**Project Name: Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites – Oregon, Wenaha WMA Additions**

**Project Number: 20112**

**Project Summary:**

This proposed mitigation project involves the protection and enhancement of grassland, riparian/riverine, open forest, and rocky habitats on parcels of private land adjacent to ODFW's Wenaha Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in northeast Oregon. Wenaha WMA totals 13,406 acres, 11,036 acres of which ODFW owns and 1,370 acres of which is under management agreement between ODFW and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Division of State Lands (DSL). ODFW has identified priority land acquisitions adjacent to the Wenaha WMA in the Wildlife Area's long range management plan. The proposed Wenaha project focuses on two properties identified as priority sites in the management plan. The properties of interest contain riparian and riverine habitat along the mainstem Grande Ronde River and other small tributaries. This area contains diverse habitats and is important to a variety of wildlife species including bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, cougar, and bald eagle. A unique habitat component of both parcels are the rocky "breaks" along the Grande Ronde River. The "breaks", which are open, rocky areas with bunchgrass and patches of deciduous trees, provide critical winter range for deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. It is some of the lowest elevational land in the area. Other unique components of this project are its size and location. The project would add about 3,000 - 4,000 acres to the adjacent Wenaha WMA. The Umatilla National Forest and the Grande Ronde Scenic River Area are also adjacent to the parcels of interest.

In response to this opportunity to expand the Wenaha WMA and the results of the Gap Analysis project, the Oregon Wildlife Coalition submitted a proposal in 1998 requesting FY99 BPA dollars to fund acquisition and/or conservation easement of two specific properties adjacent to the WMA. The Council approved the proposal in September 1998.

**Ranking Criteria**

**1. Be the least costly way to achieve the biological objective**

Permanent protection and enhancement of habitats adjacent to ODFW's Wenaha WMA area will be achieved through fee-title acquisition and conservation easement of private lands. This mitigation project will add about 4,000 acres of grassland, riparian/riverine, open forest, and rocky shrub-steppe habitat along the mainstem Grand Ronde River and several of its tributaries to Wenaha WMA.

Two private parcels have currently proposed for possible acquisition and conservation easement. FY99 funds will be used to ease one of these parcels (Parcel #1). FY2000 funds are being requested for fee-title acquisition of the other parcel (Parcel #2).

### **Parcel #1 - Easement Parcel**

Current Conditions: This 4,000-acre property is nestled between two pieces of the Wenaha WMA. The Grande Ronde River forms the southern edge of the property. This section of the river is designated as a Wildlife and Scenic River. A conservation easement is being pursued on about a 2,000-acre portion of the parcel. The easement would allow for the management of land from the Grand Ronde River's edge, upslope through the "breaks" to upland grassland areas about 0.5-1.0 mile from the river. Although the parcel is currently being farmed (alfalfa) and grazed, the habitat is in very good condition. There are few intrusions of noxious weeds (e.g., leafy spurge, yellowstar thistle).

On-Going Activities: Approved FY99 funds will be used to continue landowner negotiations and complete land easement. A portion of requested FY2000 funds will be used to begin habitat restoration planning and implementation. Restoration activities will include installation of boundary fence, alteration of grazing and agricultural practices, noxious weed control, and planting of native vegetation.

### **Parcel #2 – Acquisition Parcel**

Current Conditions: This parcel is approximately 2,000 acres and adjacent to Wenaha WMA. Bear Creek, a perennial tributary of the Grande Ronde River, flows through the property. The parcel is heavily grazed and farmed (wheat). There are some noxious weed infestations.

Proposed Acquisition: Fee-title acquisition of all or part of the 2,000 acres will be accomplished with FY2000 funds.

Future Restoration: Some restoration of the area will be necessary. Restoration would entail implementation of a grazing system to improve grassland habitats, modification of agricultural activities, and some control of exotic plant species. Native grasses and forbs may be planted where deemed necessary and cost effective. Installation and repair of boundary fencing will also occur. Funds to initiate this work would be solicited beginning in FY2001.

<b>Costs</b>	<b>FY2000</b>	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>
Supplies	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	15,000
Enhancement / O&M / M&E (includes personnel)	\$32,302	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Acquisition	\$100,000	\$100,000			
Other (NEPA)	\$5,000	\$5,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,302</b>	<b>\$170,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

Anticipated minimum number of HUs:

**Parcel #1** – Easement Parcel - 1,000 HUs

**Parcel #2** – Acquisition Parcel - 1,000 HUs

**Total:** 2,000 HUs

All mitigation target species associated with the lower four Columbia River hydroelectric facilities (i.e., mallard, Canada goose, mink, western meadowlark, spotted sandpiper, yellow warbler, downy woodpecker, black-capped chickadee, and California quail) are found on the two sites, with the possible exception of the spotted sandpiper.

**2. Encourage the formation of partnerships with other persons or entities, which would reduce project costs, increase benefits, and/or eliminate duplicative activities**

Some habitat improvement work has been conducted on and near the lands of interest through cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, and others. These organizations and other individuals have donated about \$31,000 for acquisition and enhancement of lands adjacent to the Wenaha WMA. Similar partnerships will be pursued for this project. Partnerships will occur with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other landowner negotiating and land securing organizations. Many partnering opportunities are possible and will be used to the greatest extent on these lands in the future. ODFW staff and equipment will be used to reduce project costs. Most of the costs for a 1.0 FTE will be derived from ODFW programs, thus personnel costs will be shared.

**3. Provide riparian or other habitat that may benefit both fish and wildlife (for resident fish anadromous fish)**

This project will result in the removal of cattle from the “breaks” area along the Grande Ronde River, alteration of grazing practices on other portions of acquired lands, control of noxious weeds, and the planting of desirable plant species. The efforts will improve upland and riparian habitat conditions by restoring native plant communities. The

Grande Ronde River provides important spawning, rearing, and migrating habitat for fall Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, all which are Federally listed species. Fish species will benefit from improved riparian habitat conditions and improved water quality. Bear Creek, a tributary of the Grande Ronde River which flows through Parcel #2, provides steelhead spawning habitat. Also, bull trout possibly occur in Bear Creek. Acquisition and restoration of Parcel #2 as planned will have substantive benefits to anadromous fish.

**4. Address concerns over additions to public land ownership and impacts on local communities such as reduction or loss of local government tax base, special district tax base, or the local economic base: or consistency with local government or tribal governments' comprehensive plans**

Efforts to gain local and regional support for the Wenaha project are being made. In-lieu taxes on acquired land will be paid by ODFW while the private landowner will continue to pay taxes on the parcel with the conservation easement. Some land trade component may be pursued to address concerns over additions to public ownership. Management plans may be developed in concert with the BLM to ensure consistency. Proposed mitigation activities are consistent with existing ODFW Wenaha WMA management plans.

**5. Immediacy of threat**

There is no present threat of habitat loss through development on one parcel, but the easement area of interest on Parcel #1 will be sold by the owner. Both parcels are zoned for agriculture, however some development could occur. The parcels would remain in private ownership if the proposed project was not implemented. Upland and riparian habitat values would likely not be lost on the easement parcel. According to the ODFW District Biologist in this area, there is a good possibility that the landowner of the Parcel #2 will sell part of his ranch sometime in the near future to offset agricultural costs. Decline in habitat quality is expected on this parcel as grazing and farming practices continue, and noxious weeds spread. There is also a concern that current or future landowners would allow grazing by domestic sheep. If this were to occur, bighorn sheep populations in the area would be seriously threatened.

**6. Use publicly owned land for mitigation, or management agreement on private or tribal land, in preference to acquisition of private land, while providing permanent protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat**

This project would provide permanent protection of wildlife habitat through a mixture of acquisition and conservation easement on private lands.

## **7. Mitigate losses in-place: in-kind where practical**

This project will mitigate for target species losses off-site if applied to one of the lower four Columbia River hydroelectric facilities (e.g., it is about 70 miles from the McNary hydroelectric facility). Losses would be in-kind (restoration of grassland, shrub-steppe, riverine/riparian habitats, and open forest habitats).

## **8. Address special wildlife losses in area that formerly had salmon and steelhead runs that were eliminated**

McNary Dam does not block the passage of existing anadromous fish. This project would not address tribal losses associated with McNary Dam.

## **9. Address achieving the Council's mitigation priorities**

### Habitat Types:

Riverine/riparian – 30% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Shrub/steppe – 22.5% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Native Grassland/Open Ponderosa Pine Forest – 22.5% (Medium Priority in the Snake River sub-basin)

Agricultural – 25% (Low Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

## **10. Protect endangered, threatened and sensitive species**

The following sensitive species occur on or near the mitigation sites:

- Northern bald eagle (Federally Threatened) - high potential for wintering on site
- Peregrine falcon (Federally Endangered) - historic nest site at mouth of the Grande Ronde River; potential foraging habitat on mitigation site
- Ferruginous hawk (State Sensitive Species, Critical) - occur in area
- Swainson's hawk (State Sensitive Species, Vulnerable) - occur in area
- Lewis' woodpecker (State Sensitive Species, Critical) - occur in area
- Northern goshawk (Federal Species of Concern, State Sensitive Species, Critical) - winter in area
- Northern pygmy owl (State Sensitive Species, Critical) - winter in area
- Pygmy nuthatch (State Sensitive Species, Critical) - occur in area
- Western bluebird (State Sensitive Species, Vulnerable) - occur in area
- Fall Chinook salmon (Federally Threatened) - occur in the Grande Ronde River
- Steelhead (Federally Threatened) - occur in the Grande Ronde River and Bear Creek
- Bull trout (Federally Proposed Threatened/Endangered, State Sensitive, Critical) - occur in the Grande Ronde River



## **11. Protect high quality, native, or other habitat**

The Wenaha project will protect and enhance relatively intact shrub-steppe, native grassland, open forest, and rocky habitats on the parcels of interest. Habitats on the parcel to be eased are in near native condition and are some of the best in the area. There are few infestations of noxious weeds. Not much restoration effort would be necessary here. Reducing cattle use slightly and some minimal noxious weed control may occur. Habitats on the parcel to be acquired have been degraded by past grazing and agricultural practices. Noxious weed infestations are moderate. This area would require a moderate level of restoration effort; however restoration potential is good with intensive efforts. Improved habitat conditions will be protected from future threats.

## **12. Uniqueness of habitat types**

The properties of interest are large and would provide excellent connectivity to existing lands managed for wildlife. The Wenaha WMA, Umatilla National Forest, Wenaha-Tuccannon Wilderness, and Grande Ronde River Wild and Scenic River area are all immediately adjacent to the site. This project and how it relates to adjacent protected lands will greatly benefit many wildlife species. The “breaks” area is some of the lowest elevational habitat in the area. This habitat type is critical winter range for deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

## **13. Connectivity**

This site would provide excellent connectivity to the adjacent Wenaha WMA, Umatilla National Forest, Wenaha-Tuccannon Wilderness, and Grande Ronde River Wild and Scenic River area. The BLM has also been acquiring additional river corridor lands in the area. This project will add to an important wildlife migration corridor.

## **14. Long-term management potential**

The project would improve manageability of and complement wildlife management efforts on adjacent Wenaha Wildlife Area land. The site also would provide connectivity to the Umatilla National Forest, Wenaha-Tuccannon Wilderness, and Grande Ronde River Wild and Scenic River area. It will also compliment BLM’s effort to acquire public lands in the Grande Ronde River Wild and Scenic Area.

**Project Name: Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites – Oregon, South Fork Crooked River**

**Project Number: 20113**

**Project Summary**

The overall goal of this project is to protect and enhance wildlife habitat values associated with 2,000 acres of alkaline wetland, shrub-steppe, riparian wetland, and salt desert scrub habitat along and in the headwaters area of the South Fork Crooked River. The 2,000-acre site is part of a 185,000-acre privately owned ranch that extends from Paulina to the Glass Butte area in central Oregon. The 185,000-acre ranch is almost completely surrounded by Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Prineville District land. There also are some private and Division of State Land (DSL) lands in the area. The landowner, who has grazing rights on about 265,000 acres of adjacent and nearby BLM and DSL lands, is not interested in selling any portion of the ranch; however, he has expressed interest in a conservation easement with a land management entity for the purpose of wildlife habitat enhancement.

In response to the landowner's interest and the results of the Gap Analysis project, the Oregon Wildlife Coalition submitted a proposal in 1998 requesting FY99 BPA dollars to fund easement and enhancement of the 2,000-acre site. The Council approved the proposal in September 1998. Since then, landowner negotiations have begun, but are not yet complete. The landowner is currently completing a watershed assessment to assist in developing management plans for the areas. This assessment will aid in the eventual development of a habitat management plan.

**Ranking Criteria**

**1. Be the least costly way to achieve the biological objective**

Perpetual protection of wetland, riverine/riparian, and shrub-steppe habitats will be provided by a permanent easement and by enhancement activities on the 2,000-acre project site.

Current Conditions: Much of the 2,000-acre site is riparian/riverine and wetland habitat. Although portions of the site have been degraded by current grazing and agricultural practices (i.e., hay production), the riparian and wetland habitats are used by a variety of wildlife species. Existing land practices and water management are also negatively affecting water quality and quantity. Black greasewood and Great Basin Wild Rye, some of the most threatened vegetation species in the eco-region, occur on the site. There are some intrusions of exotic species and noxious weeds (e.g., Russian thistle, bull thistle, cheatgrass).

Ongoing Activities: Approved FY99 funds will be used to ease the 2,000-acre site, develop management plans, and implement restoration activities.

Proposed Activities: The O&M and M&E plans would be implemented with FY2000 funds. Most of the requested dollars would fund personnel to carryout proposed activities.

Costs	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004
Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
O&M / M&E (includes personnel)	\$12,877	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>Total</b>	\$13,877	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000

Anticipated minimum number of HUs:

**TOTAL: 800-1,000 HUs** for all target species

**2. Encourage the formation of partnerships with other persons or entities, which would reduce project costs, increase benefits, and/or eliminate duplicative activities**

The private landowner has expressed serious interest in a conservation easement on the 2,000 acres for the primary purpose of benefiting wildlife and wildlife habitat (see letter dated April 3, 1998). Through conservation easement of private land, partnership with the landowner will exist. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will likely arrange and obtain the initial easement (see letter dated April 3, 1998). Other partnerships with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon will occur. Existing staff and equipment will be used to reduce project costs. Only one-eighth time of a FTE position will be devoted to BPA mitigation, the remaining staff time will be funded by other agency/tribe program dollars. Thus personnel costs will be shared with the managing entity. Management plans for the proposed 2,000-acre enhancement site may be developed and implemented in concert with the federal properties in an attempt to provide a well-managed, large contiguous tract of native habitat.

**3. Provide riparian or other habitat that may benefit both fish and wildlife (for resident fish anadromous fish)**

Much of the 2,000-acre site is wetland and riverine/riparian habitat. These habitat types are very important to a variety of wildlife species. Proposed maintenance activities (i.e., fencing, noxious weed control) will ensure continued benefits to wildlife from improved water quality and quantity and from improved riparian and upland vegetation conditions.

Resident trout and bass in the South Fork Crooked River will also benefit from maintained improvements.

**4. Address concerns over additions to public land ownership and impacts on local communities such as reduction or loss of local government tax base, special district tax base, or the local economic base; or consistency with local government or tribal governments' comprehensive plans**

Efforts to gain local and regional support for this project are being made. The site will remain in private ownership. The landowner will continue to pay taxes on the eased land. Implementation of O&M and M&E activities will occur in coordination with the landowner and possibly with BLM to ensure consistency with nearby management plans.

**5. Immediacy of threat**

If O&M and M&E programs for the 2,000-acre parcel were not implemented, the beneficial effects of enhancement activities on site and on surrounding ranch lands would be compromised. The overall quality of wildlife habitat on the site would decline if O&M did not occur. Subsequently, fewer Habitat Units would be generated and mitigation goals would not be achieved in the site. Wildlife species diversity and richness on site may decline as habitat values diminish over time due to lack of mitigation maintenance. By not implementing a M&E program, the effectiveness of enhancement efforts could not be systematically measured, and a correlation between enhancement and gains in HUs/species response could not be determined. The lack of a M&E program would also limit adaptive management efforts. Also, the conservation easement agreement with the landowner may be breached because of failure to maintain wildlife habitats in a manner that ensures the continued benefits to wildlife and wildlife habitats.

**6. Use publicly owned land for mitigation, or management agreement on private or tribal land, in preference to acquisition of private land, while providing permanent protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat**

The South Fork Crooked River project involves the permanent easement of private lands to provide wildlife values in-perpetuity. Proposed O&M and M&E activities will provide permanent protection and enhancement for wildlife.

**7. Mitigate losses in-place: in-kind where practical**

This project will mitigate for target species losses off-site (i.e., it is about 135 miles from The Dalles hydroelectric facility) and in-kind (restoration of wetland, riverine/riparian, shrub-steppe habitats).

## **8. Address special wildlife losses in area that formerly had salmon and steelhead runs that were eliminated**

Anadromous fish passage to the South Fork Crooked River is blocked by Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River and by Bowman Dam on the Crooked River.

## **9. Address achieving the Council's mitigation priorities**

### Habitat Types:

Wetland & Riparian/Riverine - 40% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Shrub-steppe - 5% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Agriculture - 35% (Low Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Grazing/Pasture land - 20% (No Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

## **10. Protect endangered, threatened and sensitive species**

The following species of concern occur on or near the site:

- Northern bald eagle (Federally Threatened) - winter roosting occurs on the ranch
- Long-billed curlew (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - nesting occurs on the ranch
- Greater sandhill crane (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - area is used for nesting, rearing, and migrating birds
- Western burrowing owl (State Sensitive, Critical) - breeding occurs on the ranch
- Ferruginous hawk (State Sensitive, Critical) - occur along the South Fork Crooked River, near the ranch
- Western sage grouse (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - nesting and rearing sites in sage uplands adjacent to marshy areas
- American white pelican (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - occur along the South Fork Crooked River
- Oregon spotted frog (State Sensitive, Critical) - occur along the South Fork Crooked River

## **11. Protect high quality, native, or other habitat**

The South Fork Crooked River project will protect wetland, riverine/riparian, and shrub-steppe habitats by maintaining enhanced habitats. O&M activities will maintain enhanced habitat values; improved habitat conditions will be protected from future threats. Although portions of the 2,000-acre site have been degraded by grazing and agricultural practices, the riparian and wetland habitats are used by a variety of wildlife species including antelope, elk, eagles, waterfowl, and shorebirds. There are some intrusions of exotic species and noxious weeds. The project would protect and enhance the headwaters and several miles of the South Fork Crooked River.

## **12. Uniqueness of habitat types**

This 2,000-acre site along the South Fork Crooked River contains the headwaters area. The wetland/riparian areas are surrounded by upland sagebrush habitat. Both habitats are important to a variety of wildlife species. Black greasewood and Great Basin Wild Rye, some of the most threatened vegetation species in the eco-region, occur on the site. Most wetland and riverine headwaters in the vicinity are not managed primarily for wildlife.

## **13. Connectivity**

The proposed easement site is part of a 185,000-acre privately owned ranch. The ranch is almost completely surrounded by BLM land. The federal land has been designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The adjacent WSAs are the largest of such designations found in central Oregon. State land adjoins BLM land to the west and east of the site and Ochoco National Forest land adjoins BLM land to the east. There is some private located to the west of the ranch.

## **14. Long-term management potential**

Implementation of management plans of the permanently eased site would protect and enhance about 2,000-acres of riparian/riverine, wetland, and shrub/steppe habitats for the benefit of wildlife. The rest of the surrounding ranch would remain in private ownership, although it may be sold in the future according to the landowner. Current grazing and agricultural practices would continue on the surrounding lands.

**Project Name: Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites – Oregon, Ladd Marsh WMA Additions**

**Project Number: 20114**

**Project Summary:**

This project has three distinct elements which include: 1) continuation of the enhancement of a 308-acre parcel (Parcel #1) with wetland and riparian habitats, 2) initiation of the enhancement of 160-acre Conley Lake and associated upland habitats (Parcel #2), and 3) acquisition of a 375-acre property (Parcel #3). The 308-acre and 375-acre parcels are adjacent to ODFW's Ladd Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the Grande Ronde River valley. The 160-acre Conley Lake parcel is near the WMA to the northeast.

A proposal to enhance Parcel #1 was submitted in 1998 for FY99 BPA funds. The Council approved the proposal in September 1998. FY99 funds are being used to enhance the 308-acre parcel.

**Ranking Criteria:**

**1. Be the least costly way to achieve the biological objective**

Permanent protection and enhancement of habitats provided by properties adjacent to the Ladd Marsh WMA Additions project is being achieved through land acquisition. According to a study that compared various mitigation methods, fee title acquisition and subsequent management is generally more cost effective than easement (Prose et al. 1986). The Oregon Trust Agreement Planning (OTAP) Project (BPA 1993) concurred with this finding. This project will involve activity on 3 parcels in the Ladd Marsh area:

**Parcel #1**

Current Conditions: This 308-acre property was historically part of the Tule Lake wetland complex. Tule Lake and its associated wetlands covered over 10,000 acres. Ditching and diking began in the late 1800s. All but small remnants of the original wetlands have been drained. The 308-acre property is currently degraded by past agricultural practices, grazing practices, and water diversion efforts. Ladd Creek, which flows through the property, has been channelized next to county roads to accommodate agricultural and road construction.

On-Going Restoration: Ladd Creek will be rerouted into ODFW property (Ladd Marsh WMA). If possible, historic channels will be identified and restored. The project will increase channel meander, increase the water table, provide an improved riparian zone, and eliminate contaminants from the roads. A water control structure will be installed to create about 200 acres of seasonal wetlands.

Improvement will also be made to culverts and irrigation diversions to improve fish passage. The area will be planted to native vegetation.

## **Parcel #2**

Current Conditions: This 160-acre property is comprised of 120 acres of lake and associated wetland and 40 acres of upland. It is an extremely important habitat area for wetland birds. Prior landowners made attempts to drain and farm the area. During some years, the lake was pumped to allow farming and haying. Ridges are still evident where landowners deep plowed in attempt to increase drainage to farmed fields. The uplands are presently planted to small grains and mint. Farming occurs within a few feet of the wetlands.

Proposed Restoration: Restoration will include preparation and planting of the uplands to native species. Herbicides will be used to control undesirable species until native species become established.

## **Parcel #3**

Current Conditions: This 375-acre property was also part of the Tule Lake wetland complex. Presently, the parcel is in pasture, alfalfa, grass hay, and small grain. A home/building site covers three acres. There are few scattered seasonal wetlands. Most of the area is subject to periodic flooding. Substantial water rights are associated with this parcel.

Proposed Acquisition: This property has been offered for sale to ODFW. The property will be purchased by TNC who will then enroll the property into the Federal Wetlands Reserve Program. The property will be enrolled for restoration funds and a permanent easement. Under the easement program, TNC will be reimbursed between 60-80% of the original purchase price.

Future Restoration: Restoration of the site will include restoring shallow wetlands by constructing low dikes and removing cattle and most farming activities. Both wetlands and uplands will be planted to native species. Approximately 6 cfs of water from Catherine Creek and 1.25 cfs from Hot Lake Springs could be used for habitat enhancement and in-stream water rights. The parcel will be managed by ODFW as part of the Ladd Marsh WMA.



<b>Costs</b>	<b>FY2000</b>	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>
Supplies	\$58,620	\$33,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Enhancement / O&M / M&E (includes personnel)	\$59,005	\$241,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$30,000
Acquisition	\$226,000				
Other (previous acq. costs)	\$17,012	\$9,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$360,637</b>	<b>\$283,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

Anticipated minimum number of HUs:

**Parcel #1** – 400 HUs for all target species

**Parcel #2** – 200 HUs for all target species

**Parcel #3** – 500 HUs for all target species

**TOTAL: 1,100 HUs**

Target species are: mallard, Canada goose, mink, western meadowlark, spotted sandpiper, yellow warbler, downy woodpecker, and California quail.

**2. Encourage the formation of partnerships with other persons or entities, which would reduce project costs, increase benefits, and/or eliminate duplicative activities**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has played an important role in this project (see letter of support dated April 3, 1998). Parcel #1 and #2 are currently owned by TNC who has enrolled them in the National Resource Conservation Services' Federal Wetland Reserve Program as permanent easements. TNC will be reimbursed by the NRCS for 75% of Parcel #1's fair market value and for 100% of Parcel #2's fair market value. Other acquisitions costs associated with Parcels #1 and #2 (totaling about \$26,012) have been assumed by TNC to date. Ducks Unlimited (DU) prepared a restoration proposal for the Ladd Marsh area in cooperation with the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board, ODFW, NRCS, TNC, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Cooperators will contribute about \$177,000 to restoration activities on Parcels #1 and #2 in FY2000.

Acquisition of Parcel #3 will likely be facilitated by TNC. This project will use Federal Wetland Reserve Program dollars for 60-80% (\$324,000 - \$432,000) of the total purchase price of Parcel #3 (\$540,000). Staff and equipment affiliated with the ODFW Ladd Marsh WMA and District office will be used to reduce project costs. Three-quarters of the costs for a 1.0 FTE will be derived from ODFW programs, thus personnel costs will be shared.

**3. Provide riparian or other habitat that may benefit both fish and wildlife (for resident fish anadromous fish)**

This project will benefit both fish and wildlife. Ladd Creek, a tributary of Catherine Creek (a tributary of the Grande Ronde River) flows through the site. Steelhead occur in Ladd Creek. Restoration of wetlands and riparian habitats will improve water quality and quantity, riparian vegetation conditions, and in-stream water temperatures. The lower portions of Ladd Creek could be used by rearing Chinook salmon if in-stream water temperatures were reduced. Substantial water rights are associated with Parcel #3 proposed for acquisition. Acquisition will provide water rights over about 6 cfs of water from Catherine Creek and 1.25 cfs from Hot Lake Springs that could be used for habitat enhancement and in-stream water. Transferring water rights to in-stream water flows will dramatically improve winter and summer habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon in Catherine Creek. Summer water temperatures have been identified as one limiting factor for steelhead and Chinook salmon in Catherine Creek. Improvement will be made to culverts and irrigation diversions that will improve fish passage.

**4. Address concerns over additions to public land ownership an impacts on local communities such as reduction or loss of local government tax base, special district tax base, or the local economic base: or consistency with local government or tribal governments' comprehensive plans**

There is much local and regional support for the Ladd Marsh project. In-lieu taxes on acquired land will be paid by ODFW, the managing entity, to offset the lost county tax revenue. Proposed mitigation activities are consistent with existing ODFW Ladd Marsh WMA management plans.

**5. Immediacy of threat**

There is no immediate threat of lost habitat quality since title is currently held by TNC on the 308-acre and 160-acre properties. These sites will be transferred to ODFW soon and managed specifically for wildlife. The 375-acre parcel, however, is currently on the market. The landowner may entertain other offers.

**6. Use publicly owned land for mitigation, or management agreement on private or tribal land, in preference to acquisition of private land, while providing permanent protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat**

The 308-acre and 160-acre properties to be enhanced will soon be owned by ODFW. They will provide permanent protection and enhancement on publicly owned lands and will be managed for wildlife in conjunction with existing Ladd Marsh WMA lands in a cost-effective manner. Acquisition of the 375-acre private parcel will also provide benefits to wildlife in-perpetuity.

## **7. Mitigate losses in-place: in-kind where practical**

The Ladd Marsh project will mitigate for target species losses off-site (it is about 80 miles from the McNary hydroelectric facility) and in-kind (restoration of wetland and riparian/riverine habitats).

## **8. Address special wildlife losses in area that formerly had salmon and steelhead runs that were eliminated**

The site is a tributary of the Grande Ronde River, to which anadromous fish passage is not blocked. The project would not address tribal losses.

## **9. Address achieving the Council's mitigation priorities**

### Habitat Types:

Wetland and Riparian/Riverine - 95% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Grassland/Shrub - 5% (No Priority in Upper Columbia sub-basin)

## **10. Protect endangered, threatened and sensitive species**

The following species of concern occur on or near the project sites:

- Northern bald eagle (Federally Threatened) – winter and roost on and near project site; would likely forage on the restored mitigation site
- Peregrine falcon (Federally Endangered) – forages near project site; would likely forage on the restored mitigation site
- Bobolink (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - found adjacent to the site; restored wet meadow may provide nesting habitat
- Greater sandhill crane (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - found on and adjacent to the project site; restored wetland would provide nesting and rearing area
- Swainson's hawk (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - active nest on project site; restored wetlands will provide foraging area
- Painted turtle (State Sensitive, Critical) - found on adjacent site; restored wetlands will provide year-round habitat
- Steelhead (Federally Threatened) – restoration of natural stream channel will improve in-stream rearing and passage habitat; habitat improvement may reduce summer temperatures enough for summer rearing
- Chinook Salmon (federally Threatened) – stream restoration will improve in-stream water temperatures enough for summer rearing

## **11. Protect high quality, native, or other habitat**

The Ladd Marsh project will restore wetlands and riparian habitats that have been degraded by past land management practices including grazing, farming, and wetland draining. Improved habitat conditions will be protected from future threats. Few intact wetland areas remain in the Ladd Marsh area. Habitat conditions on the 160-acre property with a lake component are relatively intact, with about 40 acres in farmland. Habitat conditions on the 375-acre parcel have been degraded by past and current wetland draining and agricultural practices. Proposed restoration activities will result in high quality wetland and riparian/riverine habitats. The historic wetland complex that once existed in the Ladd Marsh area will be partially restored.

## **12. Uniqueness of habitat types**

With the exception of the ODFW Ladd Marsh WMA, there are few wetland areas protected in the area.

## **13. Connectivity**

The two of the three parcels are adjacent to the 3,200-acre Ladd Marsh WMA which is managed by ODFW for wildlife. The 160-acre parcel is near the WMA. There also are private lands in the area. There are plans to acquire additional lands adjacent to the WMA. This project will enhance and protect species diversity over the long-term. Management of these lands as part of the Ladd Marsh WMA will enhance the effectiveness of restoration activities and provide a larger, more natural wetland system.

## **14. Long-term management potential**

Proposed enhancement activities and land acquisition will complement wildlife management efforts on the existing Ladd Marsh WMA. Additional land acquired near or adjacent to the WMA will provide wetland habitat corridors important to many fish and wildlife species in the Ladd Creek area and improve management of the entire area. Acquisition of the 375-acre parcel will particularly enhance ODFW's management of an adjacent WMA unit because present flooding problems would no longer be an issue. When accepted into the Wetland Reserve Easement Program and managed by ODFW as part of the Ladd Marsh WMA under that easement as proposed, the 375-acre parcel will be protected in-perpetuity.

**Project Name: Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites – Oregon, Irrigon WMA Additions**

**Project Number: 20115**

**Project Summary:**

The overall goal of this project is to acquire, enhance, and maintain habitat values on a 62-acre parcel adjacent to ODFW's Irrigon Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for the benefit of wildlife. Irrigon WMA land is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and managed for wildlife habitat and recreation under an agreement between the ACOE and ODFW. Habitat protection and enhancement on the 62-acre site will be achieved by developing and implementing restoration activities on the 62-acre site. The project site is bounded by the Irrigon WMA to the north and east, by County Line Road to the west, and by Highway 730 to the south. The parcel is currently for sale.

In response to this opportunity to add to the Irrigon WMA and the results of the Gap Analysis project, the Oregon Wildlife Coalition submitted a proposal in 1998 requesting FY99 BPA dollars to fund acquisition of the 62-acre parcel. The Council approved the proposal in September 1998.

**Ranking Criteria**

**1. Be the least costly way to achieve the biological objective**

Acquisition of the 62-acre property was proposed in the FY99 proposal. Acquisition and subsequent enhancement will provide permanent protection of habitat values. Project costs will be shared by ODFW by using existing Irrigon WMA staff and equipment. According to a study that compared various mitigation methods, fee title acquisition and subsequent management is generally more cost-effective than easement (Prose et al. 1986). The Oregon Trust Agreement Planning (OTAP) Project (BPA 1993) has similar conclusions.

Current Conditions: The property of interest is primarily grazed pasture and wetland. The pasture has clumps and stringers of Russian olive, willow, sagebrush, and a few other miscellaneous shrubby plant species. The pasture is over-grazed, but restoration is possible. Willow and Russian olive dominate wetland areas. Drying occurs in some wetlands as summer progresses. The wetland areas are important to resting waterfowl enroute to northern breeding grounds.

Ongoing Activities: Approved FY99 funds will be used to acquire the 62-acre site.

Proposed Activities: Habitat assessment, management plan development, and implementation of some restoration activities would occur with FY2000 funds.

Restoration and enhancement would include the removal of a boundary fence, alteration of current grazing practices to enhance native vegetation, control and removal of exotic species, and planting of native shrubs and trees.

<b>Costs</b>	<b>FY2000</b>	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>
Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Enhancement / O&M / M&E (includes personnel)	\$16,394	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$11,000
Other (NEPA)	\$7,000				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,394</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

Anticipated minimum number of HUs:

**TOTAL: 40 HUs** for all target species (i.e., great blue heron, Canada goose, California quail, yellow warbler, black-capped chickadee, western meadowlark, mallard, mink, and possibly spotted sandpiper)

**2. Encourage the formation of partnerships with other persons or entities, which would reduce project costs, increase benefits, and/or eliminate duplicative activities**

A use agreement would need to be signed between BPA and ODFW giving ODFW responsibility for management of the property for wildlife habitat and recreational use. Volunteers will be used for fence removal and habitat rehabilitation projects. Both Ducks Unlimited (DU) and Pheasants Forever have expressed interest in the project (see letters dated March 31, 1998). Pheasants Forever has also committed to donating volunteer time and funds to assist with enhancement activities. Existing WMA staff and equipment will be used to offset project costs. Management of the site will be coordinated with other management activities on the Irrigon WMA.

**3. Provide riparian or other habitat that may benefit both fish and wildlife (for resident fish anadromous fish)**

This site would not benefit fish. It has no drainage leading to the Columbia River. The restoration of wetland and shrub-steppe habitats would benefit wildlife.

**4. Address concerns over additions to public land ownership and impacts on local communities such as reduction or loss of local government tax base, special district tax base, or the local economic base; or consistency with local government or tribal governments' comprehensive plans**

The 62-acre parcel will be acquired. Local and regional support is being gained for the acquisition. In-lieu taxes will be paid by ODFW, the managing entity, to offset the lost county tax revenue.

**5. Immediacy of threat**

This site is currently for sale. Acquiring this parcel would prevent encroachment of subdivisions or other development in an area of rapidly expanding population. It is just a matter of time before it is developed into 5-acre or less plots. This is happening to similar lands in the area.

**6. Use publicly owned land for mitigation, or management agreement on private or tribal land, in preference to acquisition of private land, while providing permanent protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat**

Before enhancement occurs, the 62-acre site will be incorporated into ODFW's Irrigon WMA, thus becoming public land. Acquisition and enhancement of the site will provide permanent protection of wildlife habitat and complement the management of adjacent wildlife habitats on the WMA.

**7. Mitigate losses in-place: in-kind where practical**

Mitigation would be on-site (it is about 400 yards from the John Day Pool) and in-kind (restoration of naturally occurring wetland and shrub-steppe habitats). Mitigation would address target species' losses.

**8. Special wildlife losses in area that formerly had salmon and steelhead runs that were eliminated**

John Day Dam does not block the passage of existing anadromous fish.

## **9. Address achieving the Council's mitigation priorities**

### Habitat types:

Wetlands - 65% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Shrub-Steppe - 5% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Grazing pasture land - 30% (No Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

## **10. Protect endangered, threatened and sensitive species**

The following species of concern occur on or near the project area:

- Northern bald eagle (Federally Threatened) - winter in the project area
- Long-billed curlew (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - occur on adjacent land, would use the project land with improved management practices
- Burrowing owl (State Sensitive, Critical) - occur on adjacent land, would use the project land with improved management practices
- Loggerhead shrike (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - may forage in the upland sage-shrub habitat
- Painted turtle (State Sensitive, Critical) - use ponds in the vicinity and likely use a pond on the eastern end of the property that holds water all year long.

## **11. Protect high quality, native, or other habitat**

This property contains diverse habitats including open meadows, brushy clumps and lowlands, permanent and seasonal wetlands, and upland areas with sagebrush. The site provides habitat for almost all of the mitigation target species associated with the John Day hydroelectric facility. A key element of the parcel is the standing water, which is used by migrating waterfowl during early spring. These wetlands produce invertebrates that rearing ducklings and goslings forage upon in late spring and early summer. Sites with similar habitat types and components can be found on the Irrigon WMA and Umatilla Wildlife Refuge. Habitats on the wildlife area and refuge are in much better condition since they are managed specifically for wildlife. The site has been degraded by commercial grazing operations, but can be restored to native plant communities with rest and enhancement. Acquisition of the land would reduce human disturbance of migrating and nesting waterfowl and nesting upland birds. Habitats for the target species would improve with management for wildlife habitat. Many other wildlife species, including neo-tropical birds, would also benefit from improved habitat conditions.

## **12. Uniqueness of habitat types**

This site is mainly grazed pasture and riparian habitat types. There is also a little shrub-steppe. This site is adjacent to the Irrigon WMA. The project would remove the land from a commercial grazing operation and put it into public ownership and management



for wildlife, including waterfowl and upland bird habitats. Habitat for non-game species would also be enhanced, particularly for neo-tropical birds. Very few parcels of land this size or in this location (i.e., near the WMA) come up for sale.

### **13. Connectivity**

This project would add 62 acres to ODFW's Irrigon WMA. The WMA is currently 940 acres and is managed exclusively for wildlife and wildlife oriented recreation. The Wildlife Area is immediately adjacent to the mainstem Columbia River.

### **14. Long-term management potential**

Most of the land north of Highway 730 is in public ownership. This site would add to that land. Acquiring this parcel would prevent encroachment of subdivisions or other development in an area of rapidly expanding population. There are a few other private parcels north of Highway 730, but they do not have much impact on the undeveloped land. Acquisition of this site would complement wildlife management activities on adjacent Irrigon WMA lands by improving manageability and protection of existing and potential wildlife values. Lease of the existing Irrigon WMA lands was recently renewed for the next 25 years and will continued to be renewed in-perpetuity.

**Project Name: Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites – Oregon, Horn Butte**

**Project Number: 20116**

**Project Summary:**

This project has three distinct elements which include: 1) pre-planning and enhancement activities on about 7,000 acres of shrub-steppe habitat to be acquired and/or eased, 2) coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to assist in the management of their Horn Butte lands for wildlife mitigation, and 3) acquisition and/or easement of up to an additional 22,000 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in the Horn Butte area.

A proposal to acquire and/or ease about 7,000 acres and possibly work with the BLM to enhance about 4,300 acres of BLM land in the Horn Butte area was submitted in 1998 for FY99 BPA funds. The Council approved the proposal in September 1998.

**Ranking Criteria**

**1. Be the least costly way to achieve the biological objective**

Permanent protection and enhancement of habitats provided by properties in the Horn Butte area will be achieved through land acquisition and/or easement. Cooperative management agreements may be developed with the BLM.

This mitigation project will protect up to 33,300 acres of shrub-steppe and native bunchgrass habitat in the Horn Butte area, which is near the town of Arlington on the mainstem Columbia River. The project will involve a mix of private and public lands. Two private parcels totaling about 7,000 acres (Area #1) have been identified for possible land acquisition and conservation easement. Landowner negotiations have been initiated. About 4,300 acres of adjacent BLM lands (Area #2) may be enhanced in coordination with wildlife mitigation activities on the private lands. Up to an additional 22,000 acres (Area #3) of adjacent shrub-steppe habitat in the Horn Butte area may be acquired or eased.

**Area #1**

Current Conditions: Portions of the two private properties totaling about 7,000 acres are currently being grazed. There are some invasions of exotic and noxious weeds. However, much of the shrub-steppe habitat on these properties is in excellent and near native condition.

On-Going Activities: Approved FY99 funds will be used to continue landowner negotiations and complete land acquisition and easement of all or a portion of the 7,000 acres. FY2000 funds for this area are requested primarily for pre-planning and enhancement activities. Restoration will include improved grazing

management practices to maintain and enhance native plant communities. Some noxious plant control will also occur.

## **Area #2**

Current Conditions: These 4,300 acres of BLM land in the Horn Butte area are managed to maintain shrub-steppe and grassland habitats and associated wildlife species. The BLM has identified the Horn Butte area as a priority for Phase II of the NE Assembled Land Exchange. Livestock grazing occurs on portions of the area and there are invasions of noxious weeds.

On-Going Activities: Approved FY99 funds may be used to coordinate with the BLM to manage their Horn Butte lands for BPA wildlife mitigation. FY2000 funds may be used to develop management plans for these BLM lands in concert with management plans for other wildlife mitigation lands to provide a well-managed, contiguous tract of native habitats.

## **Area #3**

Current Conditions: Up to 22,000 acres of additional shrub-steppe habitats in the Horn Butte area have been identified as wildlife mitigation project sites. Some of these properties may be currently degraded by grazing and agricultural practices (both dryland and irrigated). There are varying levels of noxious weed infestations. Much of the potential mitigation area is in near native shrub-steppe habitat condition.

Proposed Acquisition/Easement: Up to 22,000 acres of shrub-steppe habitat will be acquired and/or eased with FY2000 funds to provide permanent protection of existing and enhanced wildlife habitat values.

Future Restoration: Restoration of the area would include improved grazing management practices to benefit native plant communities, alteration of agricultural practices where they exist, and some noxious weed control. Funds to initiate this work would be solicited beginning in FY2001.

<b>Costs</b>	<b>FY2000</b>	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>
Supplies	\$5,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	15,000
Enhancement / O&M / M&E (includes personnel)	\$32,302	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$45,000	\$35,000
Acquisition	\$405,000	\$400,000	?	?	?
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$442,302</b>	<b>\$490,000</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

Anticipated minimum number of HUs:

**Area #1** – 3,000 HUs for western meadowlark and California quail

**Area #2** – 1,000 HUs for western meadowlark and California quail

**Area #3** – up to 5,000 HUs for western meadowlark and California quail

**TOTAL: up to 9,000 HUs**

**2. Encourage the formation of partnerships with other persons or entities, which would reduce project costs, increase benefits, and/or eliminate duplicative activities**

Partnerships will occur with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and possibly other landowner negotiating and land securing organizations. The Trust For Public Land has been involved in past landowner contacts. Partnership with the BLM and various State of Oregon agencies to enhance adjacent public lands and the use of ODFW funds will benefit the wildlife resources in the greater Horn Butte area and reduce direct Horn Butte costs. Staff and equipment affiliated with ODFW and BLM will likely be used to reduce project costs. Thus personnel costs will be shared.

**3. Provide riparian or other habitat that may benefit both fish and wildlife (for resident fish anadromous fish)**

The John Day River, Willow Creek, and Six Mile Creek are located in the Horn Butte project area. Improved grazing practices and the implementation of other management practices for the enhancement of native wildlife habitat will improve water quality and quantity, riparian conditions, and streambed conditions. Mitigation activities near the John Day River, which provides important steelhead and Chinook salmon habitat, could have substantive benefits to fish. Mitigation activities near Willow and Six Mile Creeks and their tributaries would likely have incidental benefits to resident fish.

**4. Address concerns over additions to public land ownership an impacts on local communities such as reduction or loss of local government tax base, special district tax base, or the local economic base: or consistency with local government or tribal governments' comprehensive plans**

Efforts to gain local and regional support are being made. In-lieu taxes on acquired land will be paid by the managing entity to offset the lost county tax revenue. Management plans for the mitigation sites will be developed in concert with adjacent BLM and ODFW properties to ensure consistency.

## **5. Immediacy of threat**

Irrigated agriculture the most significant threat to portions of the Horn Butte project area. Another threat to the quality of existing native habitats is the trend towards exotic species and noxious weeds (e.g., cheatgrass, yellowstar thistle, knapweed).

## **6. Use publicly owned land for mitigation, or management agreement on private or tribal land, in preference to acquisition of private land, while providing permanent protection or enhancement of wildlife habitat**

This proposed mitigation site will use a combination of acquisition and easement and a mixture of public and private lands to provide permanent opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement. Management plans may be developed with the BLM for adjacent BLM properties to provide a well-managed contiguous tract of native habitats. The acquisition and enhancement of land in the Horn Butte area is a cost-effective method to ensure benefits to wildlife in-perpetuity. Permanent conservation easements will be pursued if acquisition is not possible.

## **7. Mitigate losses in-place: in-kind where practical**

The site would mitigate for losses on-site (ranging from on the John Day Pool to about 30 miles from John Day Dam) and in-kind (restoration of naturally occurring shrub-steppe and riparian habitats). Mitigation would address losses for western meadowlark and California quail.

## **8. Address special wildlife losses in area that formerly had salmon and steelhead runs that were eliminated**

The John Day Dam does not block the passage of existing anadromous fish.

## **9. Address achieving the Council's mitigation priorities**

### Habitat Types:

Shrub-steppe - 95% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

Riparian - 5% (High Priority in the Upper Columbia sub-basin)

## **10. Protect endangered, threatened and sensitive species**

The following species of concern are known to occur in the Horn Butte area:

- Washington ground squirrel (Petitioned Federal Candidate, State Sensitive, Critical) - occur in the Horn Butte area and on portions of the areas of interest
- Loggerhead shrike (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - breeds in the sagebrush portions of the Horn Butte tract
- Sage sparrow (State Sensitive, Critical) - sighted in the Horn Butte area, likely use area for breeding
- Burrowing owl (State Sensitive, Critical) - known to breed on the BLM Horn Butte tract
- Long-billed curlew (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - heavy use of the Horn Butte area by this species, including nesting
- Ferruginous hawk (State Sensitive, Critical) - one known nesting pair on BLM Horn Butte tract, two other nests on the adjacent mitigation lands
- Swainson's hawk (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - known to nest in the Horn Butte area
- Grasshopper sparrow (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - known to occur in the Horn Butte area
- Northern sagebrush lizard (State Sensitive, Vulnerable) - known to occur in the Horn Butte area

The habitats that these species depend on in this area have greatly diminished in quality and quantity. The few remaining tracts in the Columbia Basin, such as the Horn Butte area, are extremely important to the future of all of these species.

## **11. Protect high quality, native, or other habitat**

The Horn Butte area contains representatives of most of the native plant communities that occur in the low elevation portion of the Basin. The Horn Butte project will protect relatively intact shrub-steppe and native grassland habitats. Much of the shrub-steppe habitat on the properties and areas of interest are in excellent and near native conditions, but some portions are degraded by current grazing practices, agricultural practices, and intrusions of noxious weeds. Most of these habitat types, which are very valuable to a specific guild of wildlife species, have been eliminated in the eco-region within Oregon. Less than 10% of the native shrub-steppe habitat remains in the eco-region within Oregon. This is primarily due to irrigated and dryland agricultural conversion, but also due to inundation of the Columbia River and associated urban expansion.

## **12. Uniqueness of habitat types**

The properties and areas of interest in the Horn Butte area are only a few of the remaining sizable tracts of shrub-steppe habitat in the eco-region within Oregon. Most other tracts with some component of shrub-steppe habitat in the Basin are smaller

fragments and have limited value for wildlife species of concern. Shrub-steppe habitat is becoming increasingly rare; this is a great opportunity to protect some of the best remaining shrub-steppe habitat.

### **13. Connectivity**

The acquisition and easement of the properties and areas of interest will permanently maintain existing high quality shrub-steppe habitat and enhance degraded habitat for the benefit of wildlife, particularly for shrub-steppe obligate species. The Horn Butte project will compliment the following adjacent lands: BLM's Horn Butte tract, ODFW's Willow Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), the Navy Bombing Range, and portions of the Boeing tract.

### **14. Long-term management potential**

Protection of shrub-steppe, grassland, and riparian habitats will occur at the Horn Butte project site in-perpetuity through land acquisition and conservation easement. A cooperative management plan with adjacent BLM lands could enhance the long-term values of this shrub-steppe ecosystem to wildlife. Protection and restoration of habitat values will help ensure the future viability of the species that are dependent on these shrub-steppe habitat types. Mitigation activities will complement wildlife management efforts on the nearby ODFW Willow Creek WMA.

**Project Name: Burlington Bottoms Wildlife Mitigation**

**Project Number: 91-078**

### **Project Description**

#### **Goals and Objectives**

The Burlington Bottoms site was purchased by BPA in 1991 as mitigation for wildlife habitat losses in the lower Willamette River basin. The overall goal of this project is to protect and maintain a diversity of native fish and wildlife and their habitats typical of a riverine floodplain while maintaining consistency with the NPPC's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and amendments. Overall project objectives are to: 1) protect and maintain existing Habitat Units for the mitigation target species and other wildlife species of interest, including State and federal listed species; 2) provide additional Habitat Units through enhancement activities, and 3) monitor and evaluate the protection, maintenance, and enhancement activities.

#### **Habitat Values and Conditions**

The 417-acre Burlington Bottoms mitigation site is located approximately 12 miles northwest of Portland, and is situated between the Tualatin Mountains to the west and Multnomah Channel and Sauvie Island to the east. The site provides unique habitats and wildlife values, including some of the last remaining bottomlands in the region that contain a high degree of biological diversity. Current habitats are a remnant of what was once common throughout the region - a complex system of diverse wetland and forested habitats that supported a vast array of native plant, fish, and wildlife species. Habitat types present on site include riparian forest, riparian shrub, wet meadows, emergent wetlands, forested wetland, and open water.

During the past 150 years, the landscape at the site has been drastically altered, primarily due to agricultural practices and the installation of hydroelectric dams along the lower Willamette and Columbia Rivers to provide power, irrigation water, and flood control. As a result, wildlife habitats on the site has been lost or degraded in a such a way as to reduce native plant populations and increase the spread of invasive non-native plant species. Exotic non-native plant species, such as reed canary grass and Scot's broom, are currently present on all habitat types on the site; they continue to spread. Plant surveys conducted since 1993 have shown in years when water levels more closely resemble historic levels, such as in 1996 and 1997, there is a dramatic reduction on non-native plant species (e.g., reed canary grass) and in increase in native plant species diversity and abundance.



Despite past degradation, the Burlington Bottoms site still supports many native wildlife species and plant communities, including:

- Stands of ash/cottonwood forest containing ash trees estimated to be over 250 years old.
- Large communities of wapato, an important waterfowl food and a plant that was second only to salmon in importance in the diet of the local native Indian populations prior to white settlement.
- Several State listed wildlife species such as the northern red-legged frog, western pond turtle, and the largest known population of western painted turtles in Oregon.
- A diverse array of native birds, including many species of waterfowl and wading birds, neo-tropical migratory songbirds, and several raptor species, including the Federally listed Northern bald eagle.

### **Fish & Wildlife Resources**

Target Wildlife Species: wood duck, great blue heron, yellow warbler, black-capped chickadee, red-tailed hawk, valley quail, beaver, and spotted sandpiper.

TES Species: northern bald eagle, western painted turtle, western pond turtle, red-legged frog, white pelican, Lower Columbia River steelhead, and Chinook salmon.

Other: waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical birds, deer, mink, otter, small mammals, coyote, raptors, and amphibians.

### **Key Resource Issues**

- Non-native plant infestations (reed canary grass, Scot's broom, Himalaya blackberry).
- Loss of native plant community diversity.
- Loss of native wildlife species diversity.

### **FY2000 Proposal**

The FY2000 proposal requests continued funding for protecting, enhancing, and maintaining habitat at Burlington Bottoms for the target wildlife species and other wildlife species of interest. HUs for the target species will be maintained and additional HUs will be generated through enhancement activities.

Specific FY2000 project objectives are:

1. Protect and maintain 1,319 HUs for eight target species through maintenance and enhancement of wildlife habitats. If maintenance and enhancement activities were not implemented, HUs would likely be lost.
2. Provide an additional 105 HUs of protection credit by the Year 2004 for five target wildlife species through enhancement of wildlife habitats. In addition, habitat will also be protected and enhanced for Federal TES species and State of Oregon Category 2 species, and overall bio-diversity on the site will be increased.
3. Monitor and evaluate the protection, maintenance, and enhancement activities.

#### Planned FY2000 O&M Activities

- Install water control structure.
- Continue to implement control/removal of non-native plant species.
- Monitor/prevent site for human trespass, livestock trespass, illegal dumping, and other illegal uses.
- Monitor off-site activities.
- Plant native plant species in the riparian forest, riparian shrub, wet meadow, and disturbed upland habitats.
- Monitor and evaluate water levels, flow, changes in vegetation, wildlife uses, etc.. in connection to water control structure.
- Conduct a modified HEP for eight target wildlife species to determine success of maintenance and enhancement activities.
- Conduct wildlife surveys during various seasons to determine species habitat use, and develop population estimates (i.e., biological monitoring).

#### **Expected Outcomes**

Habitat maintenance and enhancement activities will benefit wildlife species by removing invasive non-native plant species and restoring native plant communities. For example, enhancement activities in the wet meadows would remove reed canary grass and restore native herbaceous plants, which in turn would improve habitat conditions for the red-tailed hawk, valley quail, and other species that use wet meadows.

## **Project History**

### 1991-1992

- The Burlington Bottoms site was purchased by BPA to provide partial mitigation for the impacts associated with the construction of the hydroelectric facilities in the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Cattle and fencing were removed from the property. Extensive clean-up of the site occurred.

### 1993

- ODFW contracted with BPA and assumed interim management responsibilities for the site. Interim management responsibilities included conducting a habitat evaluation and hydrologic study, surveying and monitoring for fish and wildlife populations, protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats, and performing custodial management of the site.
- HEP was conducted to estimate baseline and future habitat conditions for the target wildlife species in six habitat types (i.e., open water, emergent wetland, wet meadow, riparian forest, riparian shrub, and forested wetland). Estimated baseline HUs for each target species were as follows: 338 for wood duck, 388 for great blue heron, 11 for yellow warbler, 189 for black-capped chickadee, 176 for beaver, 2 for spotted sandpiper, 159 for red-tailed hawk, and 56 for valley quail. The study also estimated that an additional 105 HUs could be gained with future enhancement activities.

### 1994

- A management plan and Environmental Assessment (with Finding of No Significant Impact) were completed and approved by BPA. The proposed and selected alternative involved protecting and enhancing wildlife species and habitats with limited public to and use of the site.

### 1995

- Initiation of surveys and monitoring of wildlife species, including neo-tropical migratory songbirds and western and painted pond turtles.
- Began program to work with local universities and non-profit groups to recruit volunteers for assistance with various wildlife and plant surveys to reduce costs.
- Initiated surveys for native and non-native plant species in all habitat types.
- Identified and began project to control/remove invasive plant species, using local field crews.
- Continued interim management of the site.

### 1996-1997

- Continued control and removal of non-native plant species.
- Contracted with local groups, including Americorp's Envirocorp program, to assist with enhancement activities,
- Identified opportunities and locations for enhancement of native plant communities for various habitat types. This included identifying feasibility and costs of a water control structure for the site.

- Continued surveys for wildlife species, including conducting first nesting surveys for western painted turtles in the State of Oregon.
- Continued interim management of the site.

#### 1998

- Completed surveys and design for replacement of bridge across wetland area.
- Installation of bridge to provide access to portions of the site.
- Continued wildlife surveys, including the second year of survey and monitoring of western painted turtles. A total of 215 turtles were captured and marked as of October 30, 1998; this is the largest known population of western painted turtles along the lower Willamette River. A bald eagle pair was observed feeding on the site throughout the year; this pair completed a nest and successfully fledged one chick in the adjacent Tualatin Mountains.
- Continued removal of non-native plants in approximately 25 acres of wet meadow, ash forest, and disturbed upland habitats.
- Continued enhancement activities including planting native plants in the riparian shrub and wet meadow habitats (totaling 10 acres).
- Completed assessment of current habitat conditions and opportunities for future enhancement actions that would protect and create additional HUs.
- Identified costs with future enhancement actions.
- Began writing a habitat protection and enhancement plan; to be completed in early 1999.

#### **Budget Summary**

Total FY2000 Budget request: \$116,822

#### **Proposed FY2000 Expenditures**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Personnel & Fringe	Project manager and technician	\$44,588	38
Travel		\$1,900	1
Services & Supplies	Mailing supplies, copying, material, native plants, grass seed	\$4,000	3
O&M	Field crew costs, tractor/mower rental	\$10,000	8
Capital acquisitions or improvements	Water control structure and related surveying, engineering, site prep., maintenance	\$40,000	34
Indirect	Overhead	\$16,334	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$116,822</b>	

The requested FY2000 budget is higher than predicted in the FY99 project proposal because of the proposed construction of a water control structure which would be used for habitat maintenance and enhancement activities. Many invasive non-native plant species have proven difficult, and in some cases impossible, to eradicate. Manipulating water levels has proven to be one of the most effective means of controlling and/or removing invasive species such as reed canary grass as was shown with the flooding in 1996 and 1997. As estimated 175-250 acres of habitat would be affected by the proposed water control structure. A decrease in non-native species and an increase in native plant diversity would result.

### **Consequences of not funding O&M Activities**

If this project was not funded: 1) overall habitat quality and quantity on site would likely decrease, with a resulting loss of habitat values (HUs); 2) native wildlife and plant diversity would decrease, and 3) invasive non-native plant and wildlife species would increase. It is expected that without maintenance and enhancement activities, habitat conditions for many wildlife species will decrease in both quantity and quality, resulting in loss of food availability, cover, nesting sites, etc., all necessary to sustain life.